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## Brookhaven Police K9 Grizz Finds Lost Jewelry During Festival



Brookhaven Police Department K9 Grizz and his handler Officer John Ritch recently found a lost piece of jewelry, which was a family heirloom. The incident took place during the City of Brookhaven's Inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival at Blackburn Park.

While Officer Ritch and K9 Grizz were working off-duty overnight security for the Cherry Blossom Festival, they were approached by a visitor who asked for assistance to locate her missing silver bracelet. Officer Ritch suggested that Grizz could track down articles with human scent on them.

After a few minutes, Grizz alerted that he had located such an item. Officer Ritch then picked up the object, a silver bracelet, and showed it to the visitor, who confirmed it was her beloved bracelet that had been in her family for genera-



tions. The visitor became overjoyed with tears and thanked Officer Ritch and K9 Grizz for their help.

A K9 dog's sense of smell is at least 10,000 times more acute than humans. K9 Officers can search an area four times faster than human beings can, and with much higher accuracy. K9 dogs identify objects first by scent, followed by voice, and then by silhouette. Once police dogs find an object, they alert their handler in different ways. Dogs must first have basic obedience training. All commands must be followed without hesitation so officers can ensure that a dog will never lose control and hurt someone.

# CITY NEWS

## Brookhaven's Cherry Blossom Festival Draws Thousands



Matt Alexandre Photography

The City of Brookhaven's inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival drew more than 10,000 guests to Blackburn Park during the March 27-29 event.

"It was great to see thousands of people of all ages from across Georgia enjoying the activities, from the music, to the children's area to the pet activities," said Council Member Rebecca Chase Williams, who first presented the idea for the festival. "The stunt dog show was a crowd favorite and the 150 people and dogs in the pet parade had so much fun. People have told me how much they enjoyed this family-friendly event and that the cherry blossoms were beautiful!"

About 225 cherry trees were planted last year in six of the city's parks and at the entrance to City Hall on Peachtree Road. The cherry tree, a symbol of peace and good will, was adopted in April 2014 as the City of Brookhaven's official tree. The event kicked off March 27 with live musical performances, including the Brookhaven-based band Housebroken. The fun continued throughout the weekend with more music, including performances by music legends The Coasters and The Drifters, along with a 5K/1K run and walk and more stunt dogs.

The final day featured a pet parade and a 1K stroll through Blackburn Park, an arts and crafts market and a fun-filled children's village with Brookhaven's own Mr. Greg's Musical Madness. Food trucks, including Brookhaven-based Brook Lynn's Own Sticks and Cones were also part of the festival.

Mayor J. Max Davis was pleased with the festival's success and the turnout. "One of the main purposes of the festival was to build community and provide opportunities for Brookhaven businesses," he said. "I am proud that people from all parts of the city came together to enjoy themselves at one of their city parks."

### Hotel-Motel Tax at Work

The Cherry Blossom Festival and the 225 cherry trees planted for the event were funded by sponsorships and hotel-motel taxes generated by Brookhaven hotels. Brookhaven has one of the lowest hotel-motel tax rates in the metro area at 5 percent. State law requires local governments to use 40 percent of hotel-motel taxes to promote and attract tourism. This restricted revenue is not part of the city's general fund. Events like the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom festival qualify for this funding. We thank our hotels for helping make Cherry Blossom and future festivals in Brookhaven possible.

# From the Desk of the Mayor



Spring arrived in Brookhaven last month with the inaugural Cherry Blossom Festival. Thanks to all of you who came out as we transformed Blackburn Park into a festive and fun environment for our citizens and visitors.

I and the council recently allocated monies turned over from DeKalb County for our 2014 HOST

funding. HOST funding is not part of our general fund and by law is restricted to the funding of capital improvements. We utilize this revenue to make improvements to our parks, roads and sidewalks. In total, Brookhaven received \$6.4 million from our portion of the sales taxes collected in the county last year. We anticipate similar funding in 2015, as well.

We're very excited that the taxpayers of Brookhaven will see their hard-earned tax dollars go to local projects and needed infrastructure improvements. We're careful with budgeting. We've cut property taxes two years in a row and have \$4 million in reserve. Thank you, Brookhaven taxpayers!

On the following pages are details and maps illustrating the parks, paving, sidewalks and traffic studies we've funded through HOST. I hope you'll agree with me that we have put the money to good use.

In just two short years, we've come so far. We now have our own police officers keeping our neighborhoods safe. We have our own 911 service, which has dramatically

improved police response times and further enhanced public safety. We have our own fire marshal making inspections for our businesses more efficient and consistent. We have nearly 100 citizens serving on our various volunteer boards, committees and commissions. We build our own sidewalks and make road and traffic improvements. We are making our parks better and more enjoyable. These are accomplishments we should all be proud of. Improving our quality of life in Brookhaven was the overriding goal of incorporation, and we've made great strides in achieving just that.

But, as we know, we have a long way to go in some areas. It takes money, time and dedication by our staff to make things happen. Unlike many cities our size that have seven to nine employees per 1,000 residents, we get the same job done with slightly more than two employees per 1,000 residents. This is quite a feat and our police and city staff work hard each day to deliver the best in public service.

I'm starting "Walk with the Mayor" again, which gives you and me the opportunity to walk and talk in your neighborhood about issues important to you. As always "Mondays with the Mayor" are held continuously throughout the year. Please join the hundreds of citizens who have utilized these two opportunities for civic dialogue and engagement. You can contact Faz Gonzalez to set up either a meeting or a walk. She can be reached at faz.gonzalez@Brookhavenga.gov.

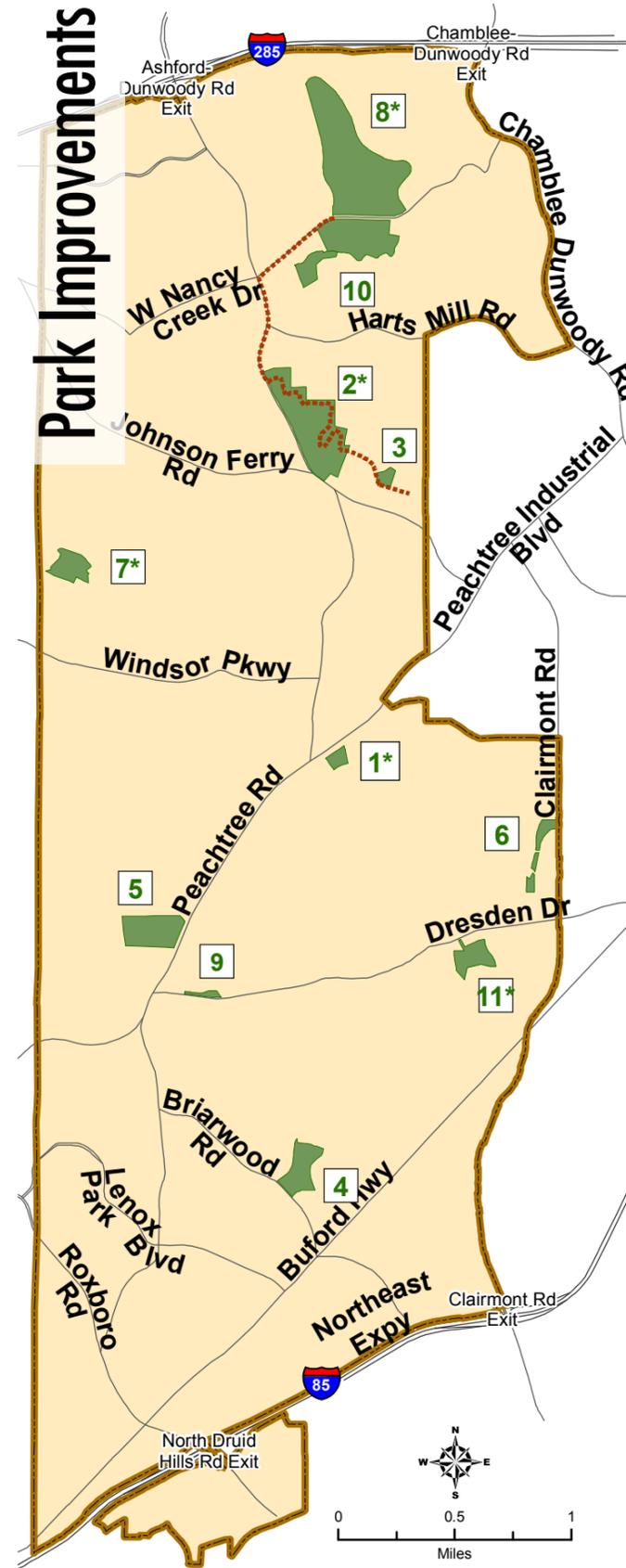
Respectfully,  
**J. Max Davis** Mayor  
 jmax.davis@brookhavenga.gov



Mayor Davis performs with Brookhaven band Housebroken.



Consul General of Japan Kazuo Sunaga (third from left) made a special appearance at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He's pictured with (from left), Councilmembers John Park, Joe Gebbia, Rebecca Chase Williams, Mayor J. Max Davis and Councilmember Bates Mattison.



- 1\* ASHFORD PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans  
 • Tennis Court Resurfacing  
 • New Playground
- 2\* BLACKBURN PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 • Pavilion Improvements  
 • Invasive Plant Removal  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans  
 • Driveway & Parking Improvements  
 • Park Drainage Repairs
- 3 BLACKBURN II PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Park Amenities  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans
- 4 BRIARWOOD PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 • Community Center Renovations  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Tennis Court Resurfacing  
 • Pool Repairs  
 • Pool House Renovations  
 • Hardscape Improvements/Fencing  
 • Steps and Bridge  
 • Invasive Plant Removal
- 5 BROOKHAVEN PARK**  
 2014 Host  
 • Park Master Plans
- 6 GEORGIAN HILLS PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans  
 • Park Drainage Repairs
- 7\* LYNWOOD PARK**  
 2013 Host Completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 • Community Center Renovations  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans  
 • Tennis Court Resurfacing  
 • Pool Repairs  
 • Pool House Renovations  
 • Hardscape Improvements/Fencing
- 8\* MURPHEY CANDLER PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans  
 • Tennis Court Resurfacing  
 • Pool Repairs  
 • Pool House Renovations  
 • Hardscape Improvements/Fencing  
 • Football Stadium Repairs  
 • Training Pavilion  
 • Trail Improvements
- 9 PARKSIDE PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Park Amenities  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Drainage Repairs
- 10 PERIMETER TRAIL @ MURPHEY CANDLER**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Park Amenities  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans
- 11\* SKYLAND PARK**  
 2013 Host completed  
 • Park Rules Signage  
 • Playground Curbing & Surfacing  
 • Park Amenities  
 • Invasive Plant Removal  
 2014 Host to be constructed  
 • Park Master Plans  
 • Tennis Court Resurfacing  
 • Invasive Plant Removal



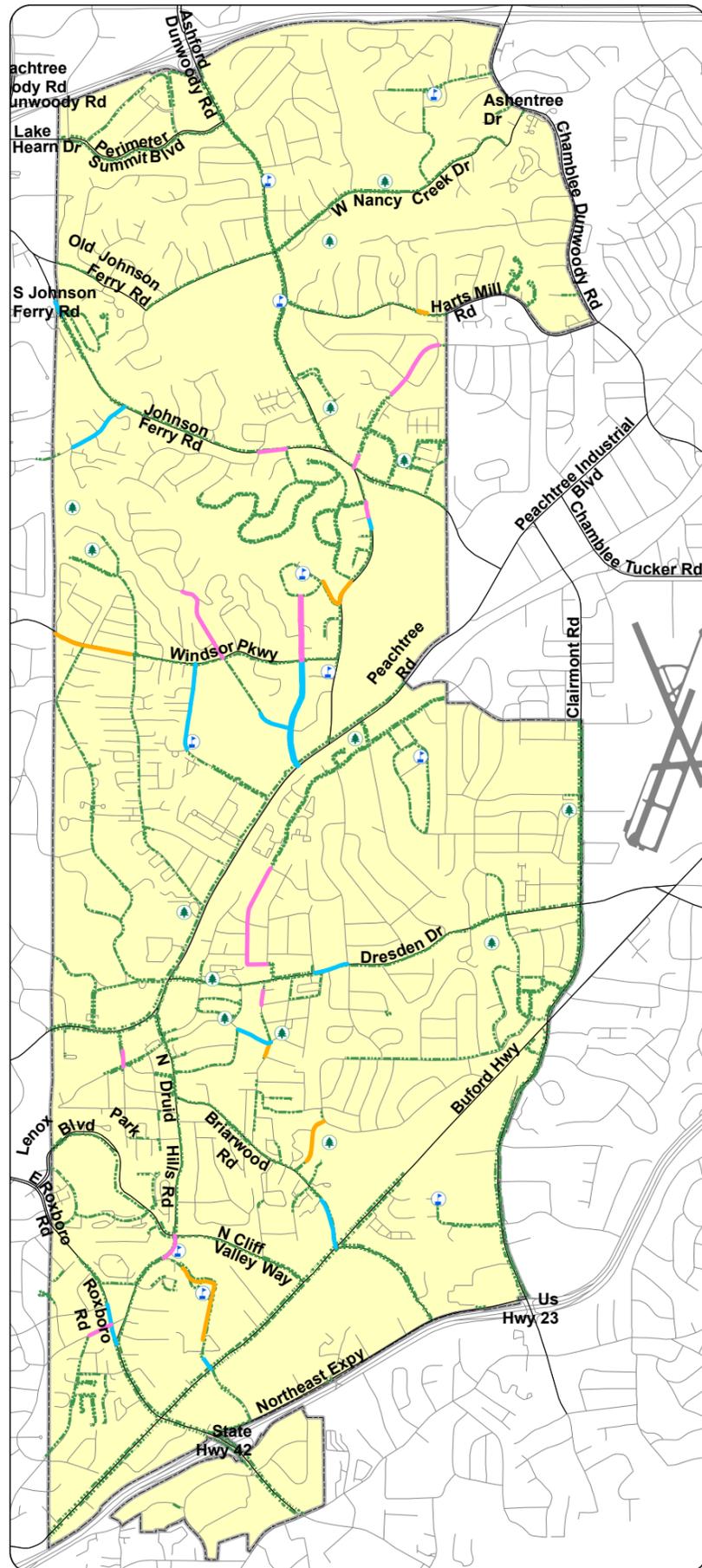
## Parks & Recreation Host Projects

Host 2013 - \$452,000  
 Host 2014 - \$1,210,000  
 Total Budget 2015 - \$4,739,045

Prepared by the  
 City of Brookhaven IT/GIS Department  
 April 7, 2015

\* 2013 Host spent in 2014  
 \*\* 2014 Host spent in 2015

# Sidewalk Projects



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## Sidewalk Capital Projects



### Legend

- Park
- School
- Existing Sidewalk
- Major Road
- Local Road
- City Boundary

2013 Host Sidewalks - \$455,800

Sidewalk Projects Completed

2014 Host Sidewalks - \$965,000

- Johnson Ferry Rd
- Donaldson Dr
- Ashford Dunwoody Rd
- Woodrow Way
- Lanier Dr
- Goodwin Rd
- N Druid Hills
- Colonial Dr
- Ellijay Dr
- Caldwell Rd
- N Druid Hills 2 - Repairs, ADA
- Windsor Pkwy - Repairs, ADA

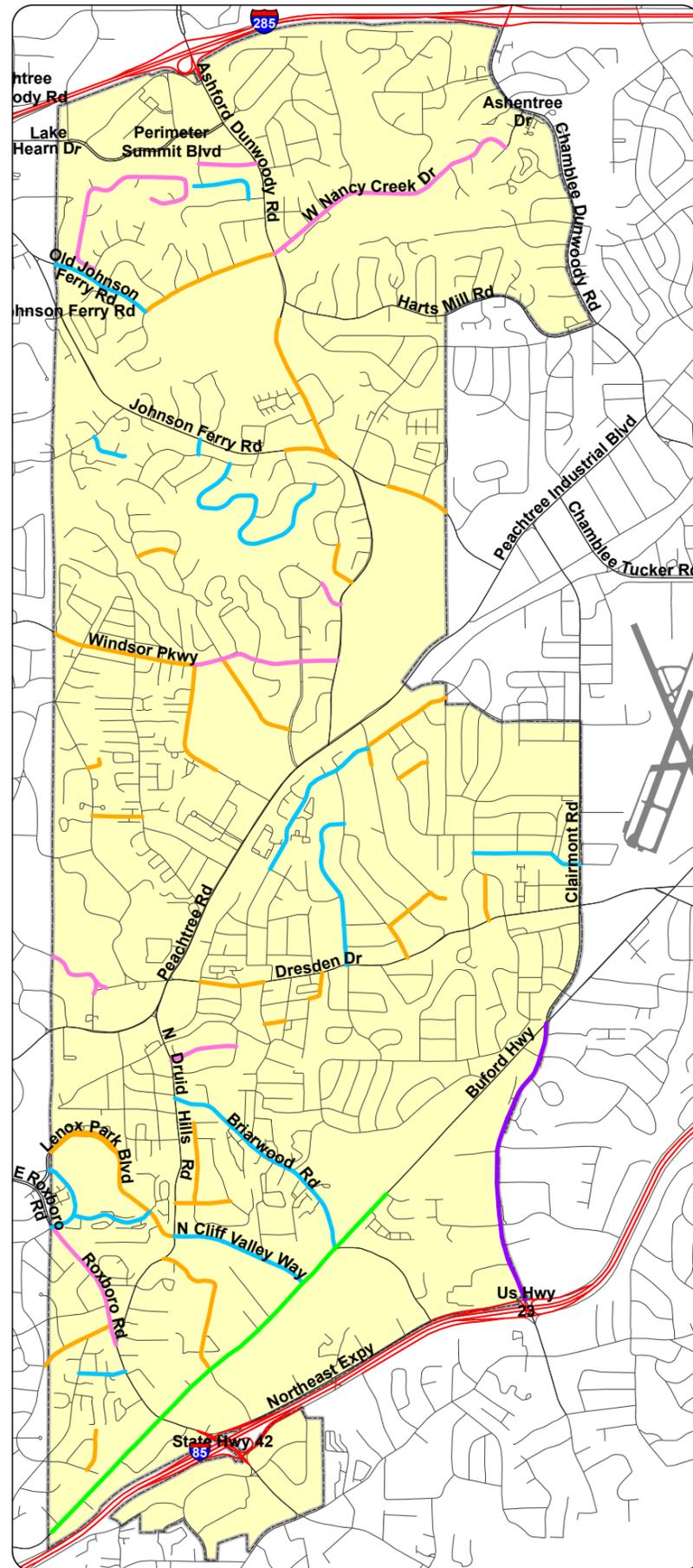
2015 Host Sidewalks - \$915,000

- Hermance Dr
- Woodrow Way
- Lanier Dr - Woodrow - Windsor
- Lanier Dr - Peachtree - Woodrow
- Dresden Dr
- Cartecay Dr
- Briarwood Rd
- Curtis Dr
- E Roxboro Rd
- Johnson Ferry Rd
- Mill Creek Rd
- Ashford Dunwoody Rd



Prepared by the  
City of Brookhaven IT/GIS Department  
April 2, 2015

# Paving Projects



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## Paving Capital Projects



### Legend

- Local Road
- Municipal Boundary

2013/2014 Host Paving - \$1,600,000 (8.44 mi)

2013/2014 Completed

2014 Host Paving - \$1,047,000 (4.41 mi)

### Road

- Byrnwyck Rd
- E Roxboro Rd
- Humility Ln
- Rustic Ridge Dr
- Star Dr
- W Brookhaven Dr
- W Nancy Creek Dr
- Windsor Pkwy

2015 Host Paving - \$1,658,000 (6.56 mi)

### Road

- Becket Dr
- Bragg St
- Briarwood Rd
- Caldwell Rd
- Childers Rd
- Hampton Hall Way
- Lake Blvd
- N Cliff Valley Way
- N Thompson Rd
- Old Johnson Ferry Rd
- Park Vista Dr
- Ragley Hall Rd
- Tennyson Pl

### Paving by GDOT

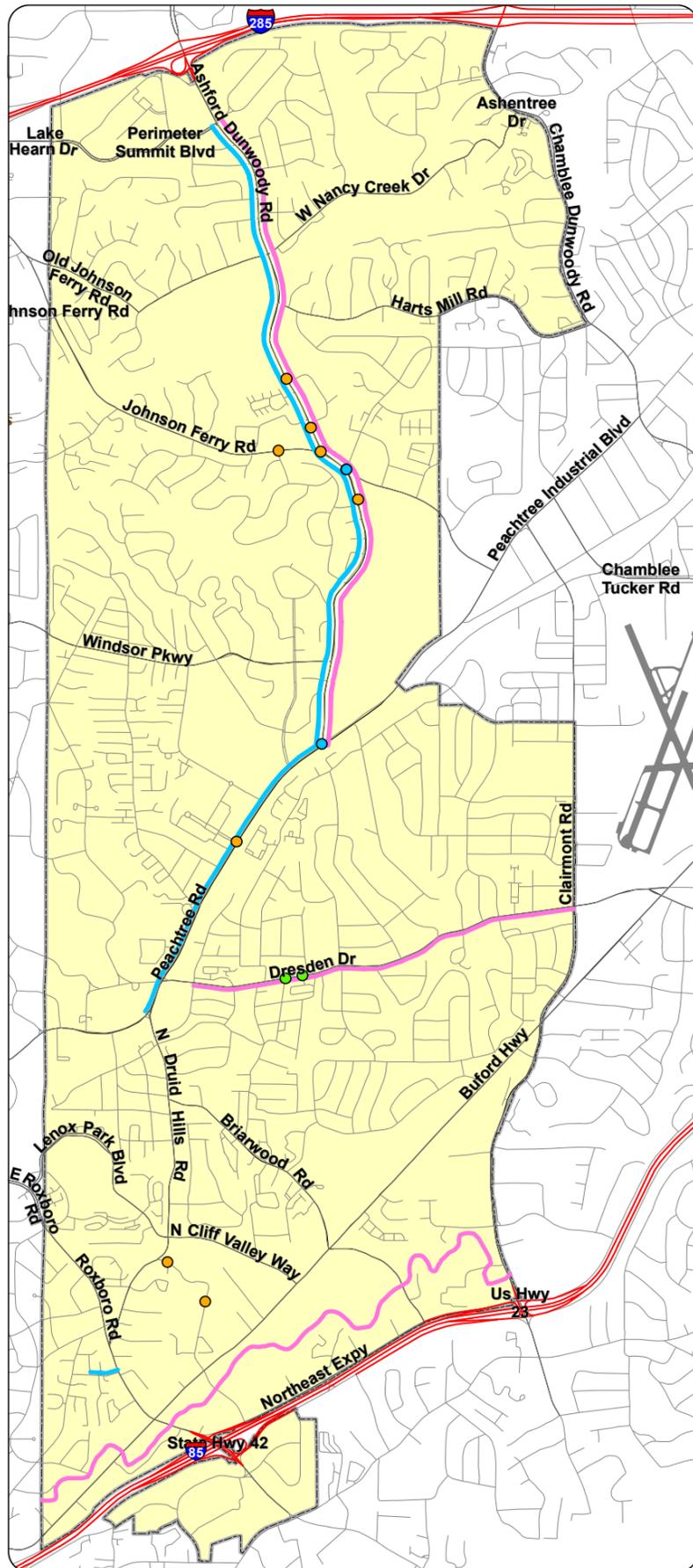
### Road

- Buford Hwy - 2015
- Clairmont Rd - 2014



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April 2, 2015

# Traffic Congestion Relief Projects



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## Traffic Studies & Roadway Improvements Capital Projects



- Legend**
- Local Road
  - Municipal Boundary

### 2013/2014 Completed Projects - \$185,070

#### Roadway Improvements



### 2014 Host Projects - \$327,500

#### Traffic Studies

##### Project

- Ashford Dunwoody Rd Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) Design
- Dresden Dr Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) Design
- N Fork Peachtree Greenway Master Plan
- Bike/Ped/Trail Master Plan - Citywide

#### Roadway Improvements

##### Road, Description

- Dresden Dr, Rapid Beacon Crosswalks

### 2015 Host Projects - \$710,000

#### Traffic Studies

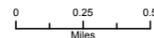
##### Project

- Ashford Dunwoody Rd Corridor Study Phase I & II
- Childers Rd Widening Design and Construction
- Peachtree Rd Pedestrian Improvements

#### Roadway Improvements

##### Road, Description

- Ashford Dunwoody @ Donaldson, Turn Lane Construction
- Ashford Dunwoody @ Donaldson, Turn Lane Design
- Ashford Dunwoody @ Peachtree Rd, Improvement Design
- Briarwood Rd & Briarwood Way, Rapid Beacon Crosswalks



Prepared by the City of Brookhaven IT/GIS Department April 2, 2015

## Brookhaven Parks Earn Wildlife Habitat Status



Brookhaven's parks recently became Certified Wildlife Habitats. The official designation from the National Wildlife Federation means the parks provide four basic elements for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and a place to raise young. "The designation signifies that the Brookhaven park system is now one of more than 188,000 National Wildlife Federation habitats in the United States," said NWF local steward Tom Reilly, pictured above, who facilitated the designation. "That's a public commitment to help raise the gap between the technological world that we built for ourselves and this natural world where we have spent 99.9 percent of our human existence."



## Brookhaven Establishes Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Brookhaven residents Anne Olmstead, Andy Heetderks, Heather Chasman, Denise Johnson, Shawn Keefe (chair), Sue Binkert, Karen Whitehead, Charles Gerrick and Mike Allers (not pictured) were appointed to serve on the newly established Brookhaven Parks & Recreation Committee. "I am very pleased to appoint these talented residents to this important committee and am very thankful for their willingness to serve our city," said Mayor J. Max Davis. "We have close to 300 acres of parks throughout Brookhaven. Our goal is to make our park system one of the premier systems in the southeast. These citizen volunteers are going to help us get there." Serving two-year staggered terms, the volunteer members will work with the Parks and Recreation staff, helping to set priorities, providing feedback and developing a vision. The committee will report to the city council quarterly.

## Upcoming

The North Fork Connectors will host the group's second annual Peachtree Creek Earthday Cleanup on April 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. Visit [NorthForkConnectors.org](http://NorthForkConnectors.org) for more information.

The Planning Commission meets May 6 at 5 p.m. for its work session and at 7 p.m. for its regular meeting at City Hall.

Food Trucks return May 6 to Blackburn Park and continue every Wednesday from 5 to 9 p.m. through Sept. 30.

The City Council meets May 12 at 3:30 p.m. for its work session and at 7 p.m. for its regular meeting at City Hall.

City pools open May 23.

City Hall is located at 4362 Peachtree Road, Brookhaven 30319. Visit [www.brookhavenga.gov](http://www.brookhavenga.gov) for more events and information.



## Brookhaven Holds First Easter Egg Hunt

More than 300 guests came out to Blackburn Park when the City of Brookhaven Parks and Recreation Department hosted its first Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. Children enjoyed hunting for eggs stuffed with candy and prizes, as well as a special breakfast and a visit from the Easter Bunny.